

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 08995 311103Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05
EB-08 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 IO-13 AGRE-00 /117 W
-----020303 010152Z /63

R 310932Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6485
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, ADB, RP
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADB REGIONAL SEMINAR ON FORESTRY AND
FOREST INDUSTRIES

REF: MANILA 8803
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1. EMBASSY FINDS PROPOSED ADB REGIONAL SEMINAR ON APPRO-
PRIATE TECHNOLOGY IN FORESTRY AND FOREST INDUSTRIES WORTH-
WHILE AND CONCURS WITH USADB'S RECOMMENDATION FOR FAVOR-
ABLE NAC ACTION.

2. FOREST INDUSTRY REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT SECTOR IN

PHILIPPINE ECONOMY AND IS THE PHILIPPINE'S FOURTH LARGEST EXPORT EARNER (6.4 PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN 1977). THE EXPORT VALUE OF LOGS AND WOODS PRODUCTS FOR 1978 IS PROJECTED BY GOP TO REACH 410 MILLION DOLLARS.

3. SEVERAL PROBLEMS PLAGUE THE INDUSTRY, HOWEVER. INDISCRIMINATE LOGGING, "SLASH AND BURN" FARMERS, AND INADEQUATE REFORESTATION EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN SEVERE DEFORESTATION PROBLEM. RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS, SUCH AS LIMITATIONS OF TIMBER PERMITS AND MORE STRINGENT REFORESTATION REQUIREMENTS, HAVE BEEN TAKEN, BUT PROBLEM WILL PERSIST FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

4. ALSO MUCH OF PHILIPPINE'S TIMBER EXPORTS ARE IN FORM OF UNPROCESSED LOGS, IN PART A RESULT OF NON-COMPETITIVENESS OF LOCAL LUMBER INDUSTRY DUE TO VARIOUS MARKET AND PRODUCTION FACTORS. IN 1977 OUT OF 429 MILLION DOLLARS OF WOOD EXPORT RECEIPTS, 56 PER CENT CAME FROM LOG EXPORTS, 28 PER CENT FROM LUMBER, AND ONLY 16 PER CENT FROM PLYWOOD EXPORTS. TO ADD TO THIS DILEMMA, PHILIPPINE EXPORTERS OF PLYWOOD HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FACED WITH DETERIORATING INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR THEIR PRODUCTS.

5. WELL-THOUGHT OUT USE OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY PROVIDED FOR IN PROPOSED SEMINAR WOULD BE USEFUL IN HELPING SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS. APPLICATION OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN AREA OF WOOD PROCESSING AS VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO TOTAL BAN ON LOG EXPORTS, A MEASURE THAT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BY GOP FOR PAST TWO YEARS. TOUSSAINT

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